

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPUTING PRIMARY AND  
ALTERNATE PATHS IN MIXED PROTECTION DOMAIN  
NETWORKS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus for automatically routing paths in a network with a mixed protection domain. According to one aspect, a method for computing a primary path within a network includes identifying a plurality of potential paths which are characteristically similar and are arranged between the source node and the destination node and selecting a first potential path from the plurality of potential paths which are characteristically similar. The first potential path is considered for use as an actual path between the source node and the destination node, while the other potential paths included in the plurality of potential paths which are characteristically similar are not considered for use as the actual path between the source node and the destination node.

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